



The Sustainable Pioneer

http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/

April/May 2005

What are YOU doing to celebrate?

With Earth Day Coming up on April 22, there are numerous celebrations around the Denver/ Boulder area. The following is a list of some of these events. For more information on events around the area, go to the Earth Day Network Web site at <http://www.earthday.org/>

Enjoy!

- Whole Foods has purchased enough wind energy to offset 100% of the electricity used for its Colorado stores, bakery, and distribution center. To celebrate Earth Day, during the month of April, Whole Foods will give you a \$20 gift card just for signing up for wind power. Go to any area Whole Foods for details, or sign up at http://www.renewablechoice.com/m/wholefoods_2.php

- The Buffalo Exchange, a re-sale clothing store with locations in Denver and Boulder, is hosting its ninth annual "Dollar Day Sale" event on Saturday April 23. All proceeds from this event will go to Surfrider Foundation, a non-profit environmental organization that works to protect our oceans and beaches. For locations, visit <http://www.buffaloexchange.com/>.

- On Thursday, April 21, at 7P.M., the Denver Community Action Program and the DU Environmental Team hosts Nathan Glasgow of the Rocky Mountain Institute and coauthor of "Winning the Oil Endgame." Nathan coauthored this book with Amory Lovins. This event is at the Boettcher Auditorium. Visit <http://www.du.edu/cap> or call 303.871.4281 for more information.

Features:

Earth Day Events

1

•GREEN Gardening

•Just an FYI

•Quick Tip

2

[Click on Headlines to Navigate](#)



Make your garden truly "GREEN"

Spring is here and once again, its gardening season. As you know, even with the last snowstorm, water always seems to be an issue in Colorado. Below are a few tips to conserve water and have fewer pests while still enjoying a beautiful garden. Happy Planting!

- Mulch prevents evaporation and decreases weed growth. It also improves Colorado's clay soil by adding organic matter to it.
- Plan your garden on paper first. Walk around your proposed site and notice the microclimate in your planned area. How much sun will it get? Is it flat or sloping? Will you have to screen off certain areas from animals? Then choose your plants accordingly. Any area nursery should be well versed in what types of plants will work best for your particular microclimate.
- Watering only the root area of your plants discourages weed development, reduces fungal and insect infections, and conserves water. Root watering can be done by hand with a trigger nozzle on the hose or with a drip watering system.
- Use only environmentally friendly weed and pest remedies. Your local nursery can show you some alternatives to traditional pesticides and weed killers.



Features:

Earth Day Events

1

•GREEN Gardening

•Just an FYI

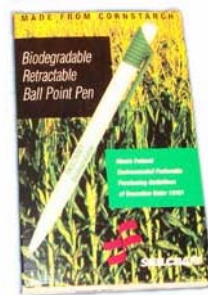
•Quick Tip

2

Click on
Headlines to
Navigate

Just an FYI

There are a growing number of products on the market now that are biodegradable and compostable. Everything from cornstarch pens and packing material to eating utensils. Industries of the Blind, Inc. produces a cornstarch pen that can be composted or incinerated. Refill ink cartridges are available, making it reusable too! Cornstarch cutlery is also making its mark. McDonald's in Sweden and Austria are using this compostable cutlery in their restaurants. For more information on these products, visit Industries of the Blind at <http://www.industriesoftheblind.com/biodegradable.html> or Biocorp at <http://www.biocorpaavc.com>



Quick Tip:



Gardens are a luxury for many homeowners but for those people who live in an apartment or town home with no yard, a community garden may be the solution. Contact your homeowner's association or landlord to find out whether a garden may already be in place for individual plots. If not, check out these tips for starting a community garden from the American Community Gardening Association <http://www.communitygarden.org/faq.php> It takes some effort, but community gardening beautifies neighborhoods while conserving resources.

For more information, visit the Web site at http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/